

Offered by COUNCILOR MAUREEN FEENEY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE CITY OF BOSTON LICENSING BOARD'S KENO LICENSE REVIEW PROCESS

WHEREAS, Keno is a "lotto" style game in which winning numbers are drawn approximately every four minutes and is conducted by the Massachusetts State Lottery. Many restaurants, bars and convenient stores across the City offer the game to patrons and attract participants with high graphic monitors and comfortable seating arrangements to lure people to play the game and to encourage patrons to spend their time in the stores watching the numbers in an atmosphere similar to a casino; and,

WHEREAS, Revenues from Keno directly benefit local aid to cities and towns, such as Boston, and although the financial support helps to provide services and meet budgetary demands of municipalities, there is a problem when Keno seating areas lead to crowded stores and casino-like atmospheres; and,

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Lottery Commission receives applications for Keno licenses and monitors, which then offers local licensing boards the opportunity to object to such applications pursuant to M.G.L. c. 10 §27A; and,

WHEREAS, The City of Boston Licensing Board is the local licensing agency in the City of Boston that has the authority to raise objections, if necessary. The City of Boston Licensing Board does not appear to object to these Keno seating arrangements in convenient stores that closely resembles a casino and more should be investigated to see where such seating is appropriate and where it is not; *NOW,*

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the City of Boston Licensing Board's Keno license review process, especially as it pertains to Keno seating arrangements. Representatives from the City of Boston Licensing Board, the Massachusetts State Lottery, convenient store owners, and restaurant and bar owners, past and present applicants and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: July 28, 2009